

Lesson 8: Generosity

OPENING

Teacher: Instructs everyone to sit quietly, rest their arms in a position that they feel most comfortable and lower their faces to listen to the prayer. Reminding them each time, when you pray, you have to show respect to God.

Recite opening prayer:

"O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate."

- Ask the children if any of them know a prayer by heart that they could recite for the class.

Reviewing Previous Quotations

Before introducing the next quotation for memorization, review previous quotes. Use the Index Cards to help them memorize the quotes.

"O Son of Spirit! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting." – Bahá'u'lláh

"Tread ye the path of justice, for this, verily, is the straight path." – Bahá'u'lláh

"Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself." – Bahá'u'lláh

TODAY'S LESSON

Teacher: Today's Lesson is Generosity

Ask the class:

- What is Generosity? Readiness to give. To give easily.
- What is an example of being generous?
- What is an example of not being generous?
- How do you feel when you are being generous?
- Does it hurt when someone is not generous to you?
- When is it hard to be generous? This is the best time to BE generous.

Memorizing New Quotations

The following ideas will help you introduce the quotation that the children are to memorize today:

God is very generous with His creation. He looks after all of us. He gives daily nourishment to everyone. He has given us many gifts, such as hearing, sight and intelligence. In the same way that God is generous with us, He wants us to be generous with each other. We should give of what we have to those who need our help. In order to remember to be generous, let us memorize this quotation of Baha'u'llah:

"To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues." - Baha'u'llah

Generous

1. Ram and Rajish had saved a little money. They decided to buy some books for their younger brothers and sisters. Ram and Rajish are generous.
2. Mrs. Murphy spent the whole morning baking cakes. Before taking them to town to sell, she gave two large cakes to the neighbors. Mrs. Murphy is generous.

Attribute

1. Joel took a beautiful rose to the teacher. Beauty is an attribute of the rose.
2. The stone is very hard. Hardness is an attribute of stones.
3. "One of your attributes is that you are willing to work hard," the teacher said to Charlene.

Adorn

1. Tonight there is a devotional gathering at the community center. The children picked flowers to place in the meeting room. The children adorned the meeting room with flowers.
2. Li Feng has a beautiful smile. Most of the time, a smile adorns his face.
3. In springtime, the cherry trees are adorned with beautiful blossoms.

SINGING TIME

My First Counsel is This

Love, Love, Love

A Noble Way

Prefer Your Brother

If You're Happy and You Know It (It's best to end with this uplifting song.)

Truthfulness

Fountain of Generosity

STORY TIME

Just as a candle's purpose is to provide light, the human soul was created to give generously. We fulfill our highest purpose in a life of service, in which we offer our time, energy, knowledge, and financial resources. This is a story on generosity:

One day Bahá'u'lláh sent Abdu'l-Bahá to inspect the work of the shepherds who were taking care of his sheep. Abdu'l-Bahá was a small child at the time, and the persecutions against Bahá'u'lláh and his family had not yet started. Bahá'u'lláh then had a good deal of land in the mountains and owned large herds of sheep.

When the inspection was finished Abdu'l-Bahá was ready to leave, the man who had accompanied Him said, "It is your father's custom to leave a gift for each shepherd." Abdu'l-Bahá became silent for a while, because He did not have anything to give them. The man, however, insisted the shepherds were expecting something. Then Abdul-Baha had an idea that made Him very happy! He would give the shepherds the sheep they were taking care of! Bahá'u'lláh was very much pleased when He heard about Abdu'l-Bahá's generous thoughts towards the shepherds. He humorously remarked that everyone had better take good care of Abdu'l-Bahá because someday He would give himself away. Of course, this is exactly what Abdu'l-Bahá did for the rest of his life. He gave everything he had, each and every moment of his life, to humanity, to unite us and bring us true happiness.

Coloring

Drawing 5 for the children to color

Activity:

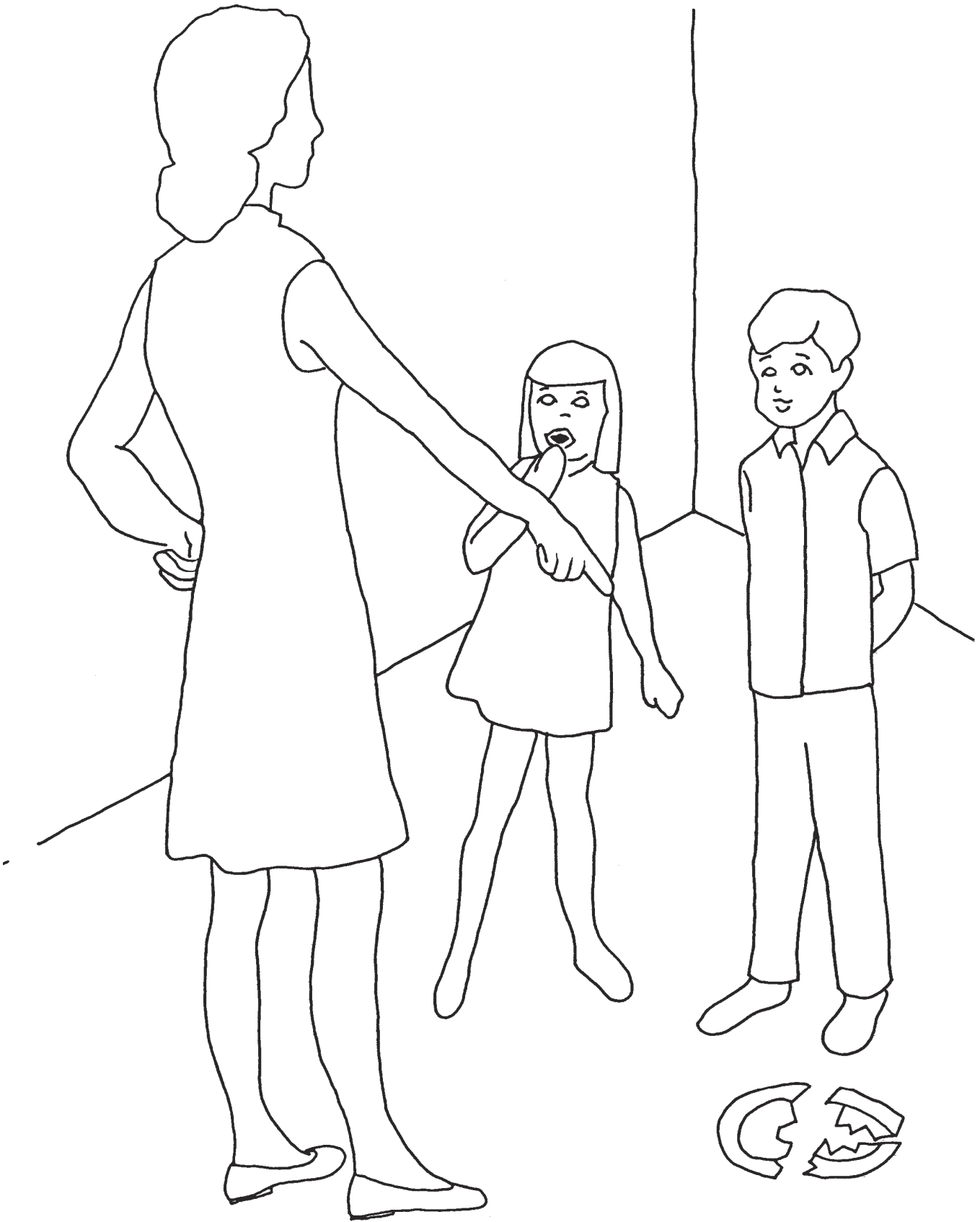
Beaded Be Generous Ankle Bracelet (Craft)

END CLASS:

Remind Children that the class was about the being generous. Ask them what the lesson means and give an example.

Someone says a closing prayer. Ask Children to settle down and bow their heads. Remind them that the quote talks about a pure heart.

**"He is God! O God my God! Bestow upon me a pure heart, like unto a pearl. -
'Abdu'l-Bahá**



“Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues.”